

**Alabama-Tennessee  
Association  
United Church of Christ**

August 11, 2012

Grace and Peace to You:

**We invite you to our Annual Fall Meeting in Flowood,  
[Jackson] Mississippi at Safe Harbor Family Church United  
Church of Christ. Our meeting will begin on Friday,  
September 21, and conclude on Saturday afternoon,  
September 22, 2012. "Who Is My Neighbor? A Sacred  
Conversation on Immigration" is our theme for this  
gathering and several distinguished participants in the field  
of immigration will be our key facilitators. The purpose of  
this gathering is to have a conversation beyond our so  
called "political pundits" and two minute sounds of  
gibberish. Brief bios of each facilitator are included in the  
registration packet. Come join us in discovering "Who Is  
Our Neighbor?"**

Yours in Christ,

*Gary Luther Myers, Moderator*

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ALABAMA-TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION UCC  
FALL GATHERING  
SAFE HARBOR FAMILY CHURCH UCC

September 21-22, 2012

**REGISTRATION FORM**

[DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NEEDED TO SUBMIT ONE FORM PER PERSON]

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ On Name Tag \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name/City & State \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED

**REGISTRATION FEE IS \$25.00 [includes Friday dinner, Saturday continental breakfast, and lunch]**

Make Check Payable to: SAFE HARBOR FAMILY CHURCH UCC

Please send a legible print completed form and check to:

Amber Kirkendoll  
Safe Harbor Family Church UCC  
1345 Flowood Drive  
Flowood, MS 39232  
Phone number: 601-906-8934

**REGISTRATION POSTMARKED DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15, 2012**

## **"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?"**

**Moderator: Gary Luther Myers**

**Pastor: Pam Walsh and Safe Harbor Family Church United Church of Christ**

**INVITE YOU TO THE FALL MEETING OF ALABAMA-TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2012**

**AT SAFE HARBOR FAMILY CHURCH UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

**1345 Flowood Drive  
Flowood, MS 39232**

### **FEATURING**

**Worship and Prayer led by Safe Harbor**

**Sacred Conversations on Immigration, led by in alphabetical first name order:  
Rev. Angie Wright, Bill Chandler, Attorney L. Patricia Ice, & Mike Knezevich**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2012**

- 4:00PM [CST] Registration Begins
- 6:00PM Dinner begins at 6:00PM
- 7:15PM Opening Welcome and Worship Starts  
Led by the Worship team: Safe Harbor  
Keynote speaker: Rev. Angie Wright

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2012**

- 8:00AM Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30AM Opening Worship
- 9-10:30AM Conversation groups led by Chandler, Ice, Knezevich, & Wright

- 9-10:30AM Group Discussion – Immigration & the Church [Angie Wright]
- 9-10:30AM Group Discussion – Immigration & the Community [Bill Chandler]
- 9-10:30AM Group Discussion – Immigration & the Law [L. Patricia Ice]
- 9-10:30AM Group Discussion – Immigration & the Media [M. Knezevich]

  

- 10:45-12:00PM OPEN FORUM: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

  

- 12:00PM Lunch & sharing news around the association and conference/  
Departure

## LODGING ACCOMADATIONS & DIRECTIONS

Participants should book their own hotel rooms. Please advise the hotel that you are with the Alabama-Tennessee Association United Church of Christ. Be sure to book rooms by September 8, 2012 to get the rates listed below.

### [1] BEST WESTERN PLUS FLOWOOD INN & SUITES

1004 Top Street

Flowood, MS 39232-9579

Phone# (601) 420-4944 / Toll Free Reservations: 888-370-2128

Room rate: \$63.00, plus tax room rate, 25 rooms blocked/reserved/contracted for this event. Must book rooms by September 7, 2012 to get this rate. Rooms are a single king or double queen. Free high speed wired and wireless Internet access. Free complimentary hot breakfast buffet. Hotel requires credit card number at the time of reservation.

### [2] ECONO LODGE INN AND SUITES [Rooms are available but NO OFFICIAL ARRANGEMENTS]

1004 Treetops Blvd

Flowood, MS 39232

Phone# (601) 939-2676

Rooms are available [But NO OFFICIAL ARRANGEMENTS]

Both hotels are the closest to the church which is about 2.3 miles away.

For driving directions to the hotels and Safe Harbor Church, please use "Google Maps, or MapQuest." We have included general driving directions for each church.



Directions to the church, if you want to go to the church first - prior/before going to the hotel.

**SAFE HARBOR FAMILY CHURCH**  
1345 Flowood Dr., Flowood, MS 39232-2702  
**Phone: 601-906-8934**

From Memphis: Take I-55 South to I-20 East, and then follow instructions from Birmingham above.

**From Birmingham:** From I-20 take exit 47, US 49 North, and go North toward Hwy 80. Continue straight on US 49 changes names and turns into Hwy 468/Flowood Drive as it crosses over Hwy 80 (pass by the First United Methodist Church is 2.4 miles North on the left; it's the next building on the left past Flea Market building. There is a huge American Flag in the parking lot. Click link below for map.

From Church to Hotels: From church parking lot turn left onto Elwood Dr. (Hwy 622).

Turn left onto River Oaks Dr. at Texaco, and go north .06 mile to Lakeland Dr.

At Lakeland Dr., turn left going West .06 mile to Treetops Blvd. (You'll be able to see Best Western.)

At Treetops Blvd. turn left; Best Western is on Tops St. to the left, and Econo Lodge is directly across the street.

From Hotels to Church: From Best Western hotel parking lot turn left onto Tops St. and then left onto

or from Econo Lodge parking lot turn right onto Treetops Blvd. going South. (Go the opposite direction Go .05 mile to Hwy 468 /Flowood Dr and turn/veer right. Go 1.8 miles and turn right into church/w

This right turn will be the first right past Underwood St. There is a huge American Flag in the parking

On Fri, Aug 3, 2012 at 5:40 AM, <[gary168@centurytel.net](mailto:gary168@centurytel.net)> wrote:

Good morning Mike. Thank you very much for securing Best Western Plus Hotel. Could you please get an alternative hotel because typically there will be no Best Western is unavailable, they will need another option. Thanks, and I hope this request is not an inconvenience.

Gary Luther Myatt

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### Rev. Angie Wright

Rev. Angie Wright is the Faith In Community Coordinator for Greater Birmingham Ministries. She has served as the founding pastor of Beloved Community United Church of Christ in the inner-city of Birmingham since 2000. She serves on the Steering Committee of the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice.

For over thirty years, Rev. Wright has been a leader in community and faith-based organizing for racial and economic justice. She served as the Associate Director of the Birmingham Center for Affordable Housing from 2000 – 2011 and as the Executive Director for Leading Edge Institute, preparing collegiate women to be leaders in social change, from 2007 – 2009. Rev. Wright was the Director of the Katrina Resettlement Program of Alabama, creating and managing a \$19 million program serving over 2,000 families with a staff of ten. From 1995 – 2000, she served as the Program Coordinator for the BEAT community revitalization effort in the inner-city of Birmingham. She was the co-founder of Alabama Arise, a statewide coalition of organizations which lobbies on poverty issues. From 1989 until 1993, Rev. Wright was the founder of Good Work Self-Employment Project and founding Executive Director of the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition, both in Durham, NC.

Rev. Wright was honored as Outstanding Woman in the Community by the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 2003. She has served on numerous Boards of Directors.

She received her B.A. from Davidson College (N.C) in 1978, and her Masters of Divinity from Duke Divinity School in 1995. She was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1997. She has two sons in college.

## Mike Knezevich

*Civil Rights, Social and Economic Justice Advocate/Activist*

[mike.e.knezevich@gmail.com](mailto:mike.e.knezevich@gmail.com)

Mike is involved with various organizations, education and social engineering projects. He is on the board of directors for Safe Harbor Family United Church of Christ and on the board of the Jackson AIDS Project House, which is a local nonprofit organization, transitional and permanent living facility for people living with HIV and AIDS. In addition, he is a member of MIRA or the Mississippi Interfaith Religious Action Alliance. Mike is regularly seen in the media protesting in support of these organizations and issues. Also, he helps organize and facilitate displays of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt. Mike has attended ecumenical World AIDS Day Memorials held each year on December 1 at the Jackson, Mississippi area.

An outspoken and visible advocate for groups of marginalized and disenfranchised people. Mike has written many editorials and letters to the editor published in the state's largest newspaper *The Clarion-Ledger* and in other state news publications including *The Hattiesburg American*, *The Meridian Star*, and *The Jackson Free Press*. His editorials and letters to the editor number in the hundreds. His original quotes and some editorials can easily be found on the internet. Likewise, the projects, Mike and the organizations where he is involved are well known on Facebook, seen and heard on local television and radio stations.

Mike works in the Unemployment Insurance Division of MDES or the Mississippi Department of Employment Security and specializes in helping Spanish speakers and other claimants who do not speak English to maintain their unemployment benefits. He holds a Master's Degree in Management and has done work on his PhD at Jackson State University. His initiation of a bilingual customer service center over the past year have helped to reduce the expenses of that agency's yearly operations by 22%.

Mike's goal is to educate and function as a nexus between various groups and organizations to address concerns regarding civil rights, social and economic justice issues.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mississippi-Immigrants-Rights-Alliance/105176609608689>  
<http://www.yourmira.org/>

Office Phone (601) 968-5182

Bill Chandler  
Executive Director  
[b.chandler@yourmira.org](mailto:b.chandler@yourmira.org)

An eyewitness to the brutal immigration raids during the 1950's, Bill Chandler, a California native, has been continuously involved in supporting the rights of immigrant workers for more than 45 years. He began with union organizing and community activism in the 1960s in Los Angeles. He participated in the 1965 grape boycott effort and organized cross-border actions with Mexican and American workers to support the United Farm Workers in their efforts to improve conditions, even in the face of police harassment and brutality. Since then, Bill's organizing focus has been primarily with the lowest paid workers in the South, including farm workers, hospitality, health care, public and immigrant workers. Beginning in 1989 in Mississippi, he organized the aggressive Mississippi Alliance of State Employees/Communications Workers of America. He helped start the successful effort by some 5,000 casino workers to organize into UNITE HERE in Mississippi. Responding to attacks on immigrant workers and discrimination against Latino school children in Mississippi, Bill brought a group of immigrants, labor, civil rights, religious, social and human rights activists and organizations together to form the MIRA in November of 2000. Initially an organization of volunteers, the MIRA has grown into a major force with a staff of organizers, an attorney and advocates, led by a board made up of mainly African American and Latino leaders in Mississippi. Bill has six successful adult children and six grandchildren. He is married to L. Patricia Ice, the MIRA Legal Project Director. They live in Jackson with two dogs and three cats.

L. Patricia Ice  
Director, MIRA Legal Project  
[p.ice@yourmira.org](mailto:p.ice@yourmira.org)

Ms. Ice grew up in the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Detroit, MI from the 1950s through the 1990s before she moved to Mississippi. She is currently a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jackson, and served for two years as a United States Peace Corps volunteer English teacher in Porto Novo, Benin, West Africa in the 1980s. Later, after teaching English in the Philippines, Haiti, Honduras and the United States, Ice developed an interest in immigration law. She moved to Mississippi in 1998 to work as a reference librarian at the Mississippi College School of Law. A year later, she began an immigration law practice in Jackson, continuing with the work she had started in Michigan in 1994. Ice joined MIRA in 2001 as an attorney volunteer and then as a board member. She joined the MIRA staff in 2006 after being awarded an Equal Justice Works Katrina Legal Fellowship. Ice has been a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association since 1993. She writes an immigration advice column which appears online at [indiversity.com](http://indiversity.com) and in the Mississippi print publications of La Noticia and The Jackson Advocate. She holds a B.A. in History from Spelman College, an M.A. in Linguistics with a major in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from Ohio University, and M.L.I.S. (Library Science) and J.D. (Law) degrees from Wayne State University. A native of Detroit, Ice is an attorney admitted to practice law in Michigan, Mississippi and New Mexico.